requirement of systems and weapons for the Navy in order to meet the threat posed by the recent acquisitions of hardware by Pakistan. The Task Force has in its report identified a number of steps as counter-measures against these Pakistani acquisitions.

(c) to (e). All developments having a bearing on the country's security are kept under constant observation by the Government and appropriate counter-measures are initiated from time to time to maintain defence preparedness. The Indian Navy is also re-equipped and modernised in keeping with the emerging threat perceptions.

Viral Conjuctivities

1472. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several patients suffering from viral conjunctivities have become blind after using the medicines widely prescribed by registered doctors:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any action has been taken against such doctors; and

(d) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) to (d). There is no reliable data available on this issue. However, recently thirteen patients with history of corneal ulceration reported at the Dr. R.P. Centre for Opthalmic Sciences, New Delhi after an attack of viral conjuctivities. Four of these patients were treated with cornealgraft as there was an evidence of extensive damage of cornea. The public has also been made aware of risk of damage to cornea by use of steroid eye drops and eye ointments during conjuctivities.

[Translation]

Irrigation under Tribal Sub-Plan Region

1473. SHRIMATI CHHABILA ARVIND NETAM : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been no increase in the irrigated area of tribal sub-plan region after the enactment of Forest Conservation Act, 1980:

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have any other plan to increase the irrigated area without effecting the Forest Conservation Act; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) There has been an increase in the ultimate irrigation potential of 1.55 million hectares through Major and Medium Projects under Tribal Sub-Plan during the period 1979-80 to 1993-94.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

[English]

Gorkha Training Centre in Sabathu, H.P.

1474. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of schemes of Army exposure camp for school children organised by the Directorate General Infantry at the Gorkha Training Centre in Sabathu in Himachal Pradesh: and

(b) the details of such camp organised during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) and (b). 1. An adventure camp called 'Beyond Horizons - 96' was organised for the children of the Salwan Public School, Rajendra Nagar, New Delhi by the School Staff near Sabathu (Shimla). The School authorities approached the Infantry Directorate for assistance to expose the children to Army Life. The camp was for a duration of ten days from 21 May 1996 to 31 May 1996.

2. The aim of the camp was to acquaint young school children to the Army, its ethos, activities and to generate in them a zeal for outdoor life, adventure, National spirit and inculcate qualities of leadership and discipline and thereby motivate them to join the Armed Forces.

3. The subjects covered in the camp included the following :

(a) Familiarisation with Armed Forces, Service Life, Ethos and training.

(b) Adventure activities to include Rock climbing, Trekking, Camping and Survival, Water Crossing and lectures on Leadership, Motivation, Service Life, History of the Armed Forces and so on.

4. Most of these activities were organised by the school staff themselves. The training centre provided a few qualified instructors and material assistance. The camp was well received and as per reports from school authorities the children have been greatly motivated to serve the Mother Land.

5. Only one camp of this nature was organised at Sabathu.

Additional Gauging Centre

1475. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up additional gauging centre at Biligondlu on the border of Karnataka-Tamil Nadu by the Central Water Commission to monitor the flow of Cauvery water:

(b) if so, whether both the States have agreed to the above proposal; and